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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF

ST. LEO'S PARISH

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION

TO THE PRESENT DAY

1881 - 1922

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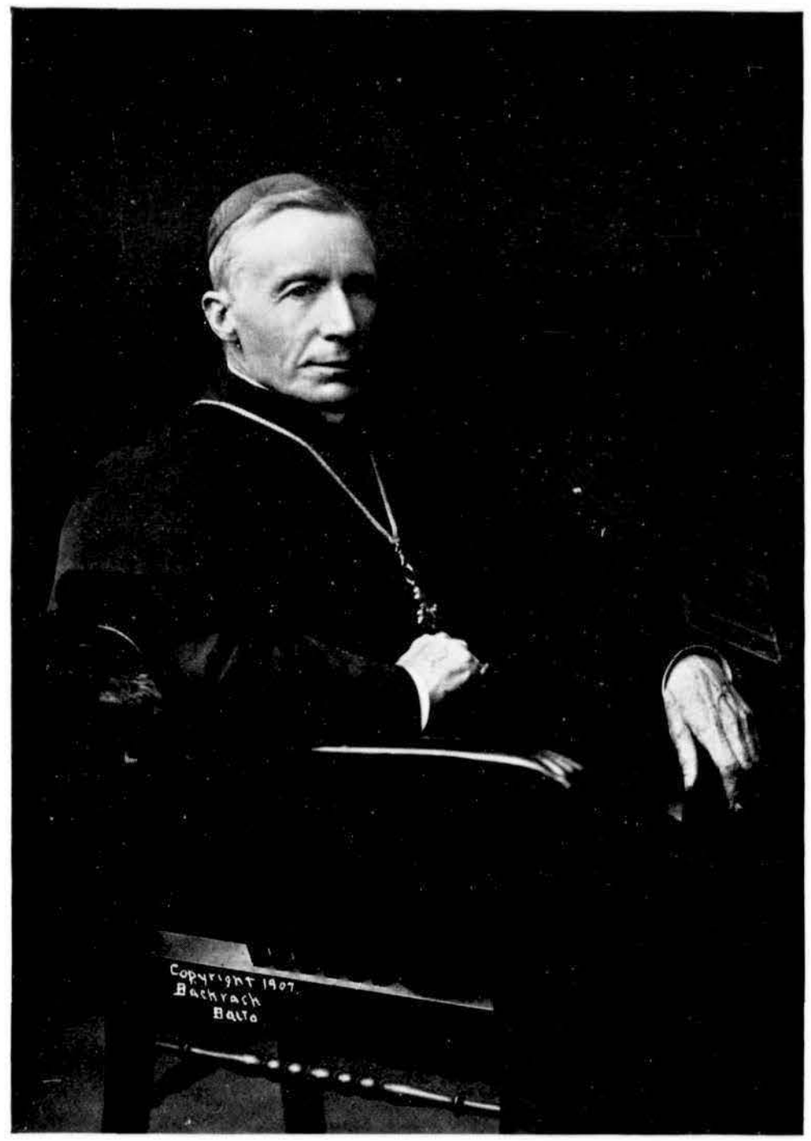
POPE BENEDICT XV.



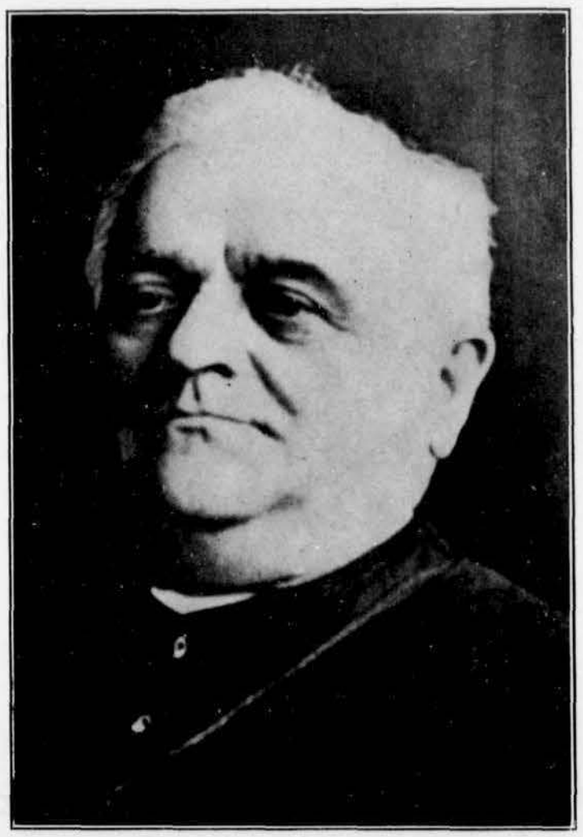
JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS.

TO HIS GRACE, MICHAEL J. CURLEY,
ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE.

We had intended dedicating this short review of our activities, extending over 12 years in the city of Baltimore, to His Eminence, our late Cardinal,—he had so graciously called us to take charge of the Italians here, and never ceased to show the deepest interest in our work, or to give it his weighty support. We never turned to him without finding fresh courage and powerful inspiration. Our gratitude will not end now with his departure. His blessed memory will always stay with us.

But now we confidently look up also to his illustrious successor, our new Archbishop, His Grace, MICHAEL J. CURLEY. We trust that Your Grace, too, will be our kind adviser and strong protector, helping us in our humble endeavors to make St. Leo's a model Italian parish, worthy of its great Patron and worthy of this glorious archdiocese.

Rt. Rev. O. B. CORRIGAN,
Vicar General.



REV. JOSEPH L. ANDREIS
FOUNDER
OF ST. LEO'S CHURCH

ST. LEO'S CHURCH

THE CHURCH AND ITS PASTORS.

ON Sunday, September 12, 1880, the cornerstone of St. Leo's was laid by His Grace Archbishop Gibbons at that time not yet created a Cardinal. We had long wished to see a church built for the Italians of the city, as their number was gradually increasing. The greater part of them, however, had made their homes in the southeastern section of the city, where St. Leo's now stands, and this he judged the proper location. Having come to a decision in the matter, he appointed Rev. Joseph Leo Andreis, then assistant pastor of St. Vincent's Church, and a native of Turin, Italy, to undertake the formation of a congregation. Owing to circumstances, Father Andreis, in order to accomplish the task of building the new church and, later on, the schools, so greatly needed, was obliged to incur a very heavy debt; so that the history of the church, in a money way, has been a long and great struggle, now, however, successfully brought to a conclusion.

After a vigorous campaign of collecting beforehand, the new church was finally begun. At the laying of the cornerstone, Archbishop Gibbons made an address to a great crowd of people, Catholic and Protestant alike, and an Italian address was delivered by Rev. Emilius de Augustinus, S. J. of Woodstock College. The occasion was one of great ceremony. A procession of all the Catholic societies of the city, forming at the City Hall and headed by many priests and the French and Italian consuls, marched to St. Leo's and assisted at the ceremonies.

The first Mass was said at St. Leo's on January 23, 1881, in the basement, as the upper part of the church was still unfinished. Father Andreis was the celebrant. In the afternoon of the same day, Vespers were sung, and at Benediction an ostensorium, blessed especially and sent to St. Leo's by Pope Leo XIII, was used.

Father Andreis had a large number of devoted American friends who wished to help him by taking seats at his church; but the

REV. JOS. M. RIEDEL, P. S. M.
PASTOR
ST. LEO'S CHURCH

Archbishop did not sanction this, as the church was intended for the Italians alone. This made the first year's struggle a very hard one, the number of Italians being as yet insufficient for the needs of the new parish. One year later, therefore, in September, 1881, St. Leo's was made a parish for both nationalities, and in the same month the completed edifice was dedicated and the altar removed to the upper floor of the church. On the Sunday of dedication, the new bell of the tower was also blessed.

St. Leo's now began to flourish, starting from a congregation of 100 Italians and 1,500 Americans. In 1883, the Calvary now above the high altar, and the handsome side paintings of the Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph, the work of Gamba of Turin, painter to the King of Italy, were brought from a trip home to Europe by Father Andreis. The beautiful fresco work of the church was done in October, 1887, by H. Foresti and V. Orlando, and renewed by the same artists in the year 1910, through the kindness of Mr. A. Lanasa.

Father Andreis died in July, 1903. He was suceeded by Rev. Thomas Monteverde, who died in July, 1905. The third pastor was Father Pasquale di Paolo. The silver jubilee of St. Leo's was celebrated during his incumbency.

Father Joseph M. Riedel took charge of the parish in September, 1909. His ass'stants have been: Reverends Mario Catalano, D.D.; Peter Schroeder, P. S. M.; Joseph Gleisner, P. S. M.; August Braukmann, P. S. M.; Rev. Valentine Rumpel, P. S. M., since July, 1917, pastor of St. John the Baptist's. He was sent from St. Leo's to take charge of this new Italian church, given to the Italians by Cardinal Gibbons free of debt and ready for occupancy, in consideration of the heavy debt still resting on St. Leo's Father Valentine Rumpel, a great Missionary(who spent over 20 years with the Indians of Brazil), is now contemplating the building of a much-needed school.

Father Albert Guido Spiesberger, P. S. M., was another assistant. The present assistant at St. Leo's, Rev. Henry Gerlen, P. S. M, D. D., a classmate of Father Riedel in Rome, has the degrees of Doctor of Philsophy and Theology. Dr. Gerlin is humble as a child and mild as a lamb, and helps to make St. Leo's Rectory a cheerful and happy place, for he also is a musician and knows how to play the piano well.

The financial condition of the parish has been a very difficult one to meet, as Father Riedel found the congregation of 2,000 worshippers mostly poor, hard-working people, burdened with a debt of $20,900. Notwithstanding this, he has contrived to pay the interest on an additional sum of $5,000 for the right of occupying the building at 112 North Front Street, the present Asylum. He was criticized at first for contracting further debt; but today not a voice is raised in condemnation.

The first five years of Father Riedel's pastorate at St. Leo's were therefore a continual struggle, to obtain the necessary money

REV. HENRY GERLEN, P. S. M., D. D.

to pay a yearly interest of over $1,000. As the like amount was required for needed repairs and improvements, and the whole annual income of the church was about $3,000, there was no question of a regular salary for the pastor, his assistants or the good Sisters of Notre Dame who, all working together in true missionary spirit for the good of immortal souls, were satisfied with the little they received. Thanks to the gracious Providence of God, they were never reduced to actual want of the necessities of life. Father Riedel was all this time afflicted with a chronic

throat trouble which caused him much suffering; notwithstanding this, he made it a point to appear always with a contented, pleasant and smiling countenance, saying that a poor missionary must not allow himself to worry over either money or sickness—immortal souls were his riches and treasure, the will of God his comfort and consolation.

The report for 1914 showed the financial condition of St. Leo's to be changing for the better. At that time Cardinal Gibbons wrote the following letter to Father Riedel:

My Dear Father Riedel:

I am pleased to learn that you are about to inauguarate a movement amongst your parishioners for the reduction of the debt which is on St. Leo's Church. I know that for the past twenty years there has been a heavy debt on the church, a debt which still amounts to $20,900, and which is a burden on the parish. The great interest which the Italians of this city have shown in the Orphan Asylum recently organized, leads me to believe that with a little encouragement, they will make an earnest effort to lessen this debt. By doing this they will lift a very heavy burden from the church, and enable you to devote the money now being paid out yearly in interest for the needs of the school and church. I sincerely hope and trust that you will be successful in your efforts, and that you will have the hearty and generous co-operation of your parishioners.

Faithfully yours in Xto.,

J. Card. Gibbons,
Archbishop of Baltimore.

The Pastor was now feeling at home with his flock, and they, in return, were putting their confidence in him. Twenty thousand nine hundred dollars was an immense sum to be paid by a poor, hard-working class. But it soon became apparent, by his words and deeds, that Father Riedel loved and esteemed the laboring class. In many a sermon he depicted the working man as great and noble indeed, if his work was done in a Christian spirit. St. Joseph, the carpenter, Jesus Himself, Mary at her daily tasks—these were the models of the Christian family. "Your toil-hardened hands are worthy to be kissed—be not envious of those who enjoy riches, who live in sumptuous palaces, who ride in splendid automobiles while you have to work, to dig—be honest, upright workers, for man is created to labor as the bird to fly."

And it is the good, hard-working class who wiped out St. Leo's debt of $20,900. The rich and selfish refused their help, under the pretext of being poor themselves.

The confidence of his flock in Father Riedel has been proved by the increased interest shown in the financial help given him.

His people realized that he meant all he said—that his own life corresponds to his teaching. While making his visits to discover who were not attending church, he was often given the excuse: "I have no good clothes, no hat."

"Come in your everyday clothes—put your shawl or your handkerchief on your head—come at any cost to Mass, no matter how poor you may be. There is no "admission fee' nor any "pew rent" at St. Leo's to keep you out—all is free. Poverty is no shame when Christ, the living God, equal to the Father and Holy Ghost, maker of heaven and earth, lay in a stable, a manger, in extreme poverty, for love of all of us poor sinners," he would answer.

From 1915 on, he was able to pay off a little every year, so that in 1919, when the drive for reducing the church debt began, it had been lowered to $14,200. This sum has now been entirely cleared off by means of subscriptions, entertainments and carnivals.

The following are the brave and zealous Captains of the Teams working for the Drive:

1. Mr. Leo Lavezza.
2. Dora Falotico & Lucy Bruno.
3. Mrs. Isabella Martocci.
4. Mr. Frank Corosanito.
5. Miss Fannie Castrilli.
6. Mrs. August Marcellino.
7. Mrs. Margaret Penti.
8. Mrs. Gazella Cuneo.
9. Miss Florence Andre.
10. Mr. Vincent Calore.
11. Schiavetti, Mastrocola and Giardino.
12. M. Petrecca.
13. Mr. Gaetano Merolla.
14. Mr. John Molinari.
15. Mr. Frank Di Paula.
16. Miss Fannie Della Vecchio.
17. Pedro Di Pietro.
18. Mr. Charles Marbotti.
19. Misses Rosie and Josephine Petrone.

20. Miss Catherine Clark.
21. Miss Anna Guiliano.
22. Miss Lillian Lyons.

Rev. Joseph Gleisner and Rev. Joseph M. Riedel each had a team.

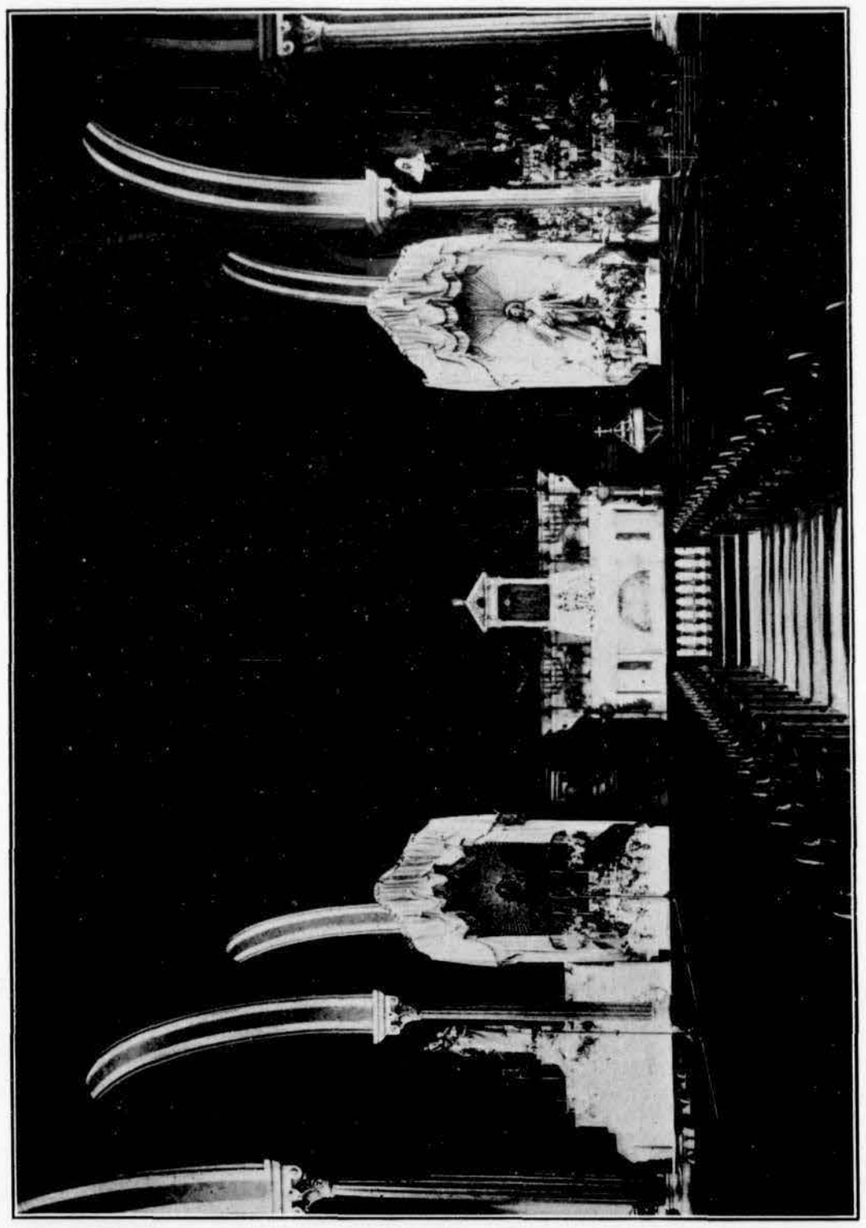
Total collected by the members of the Drive	$ 5,344.60
Entertainments, Collections and Carnivals	$ 8,855.40
Total	$14,200.00
Previously Paid	$ 6,700.00
Total Paid	$20,900.00

Among the names on the subscription list (kept at the rectory, and comprising the names of every individual contributing, from five cents to $200, the largest amount), I think it is my duty to mention honorably and particularly those of our constant friends and benefactors who untiringly helped and assisted in our fairs, carnivals, picnics, oyster suppers, etc.:

These are:

Mr. Charles Lamm, family and friends.
Dr. G. Heller, family and friends.
Mrs. Lena Lavezza, family and friends.
Mrs. Isabella Martocci, family and friends.
Mrs. Mary Cherigo, family and friends.
Mrs. Josephine Valentini, family and friends.
Miss Fannie Della Vecchia, friends and family.
Justice Gerecht, family and friends.
M. F. Cardegna, family and friends.
Mrs. Anna Smith, family and friends.
Mr. Charles Courtney, family and friends.
Mr. Andrew Burns, family and friends.
Mr. Angelo DellUomo, family and friends.
Miss Teresa Bacigalupa, family and friends.
Miss Stella Dolan, family and friends.
Miss Mary Keleher, family and friends.
Mrs. F. Valentini, family and friends.
Mr. Frank Bowman, family and friends.

Besides these here mentioned I wish to thank each and everyone whosoever helped St. Leo's.



INTERIOR OF ST. LEO'S CHURCH

(No. 1.)

BALANCE SHEET.

Amount of the original debt to Metropolitan Savings Bank:	
(a) Ground Rent Jan. 15, 1881	$7,500.00
(b) Mortgage Loan Feb. 17, 1893	$9,500.00
	$17,000.00

Payments made on Ground Rent:

April 22, 1921	$3,750.00
Oct. 5, 1921	3,750.00
	$7,500.00

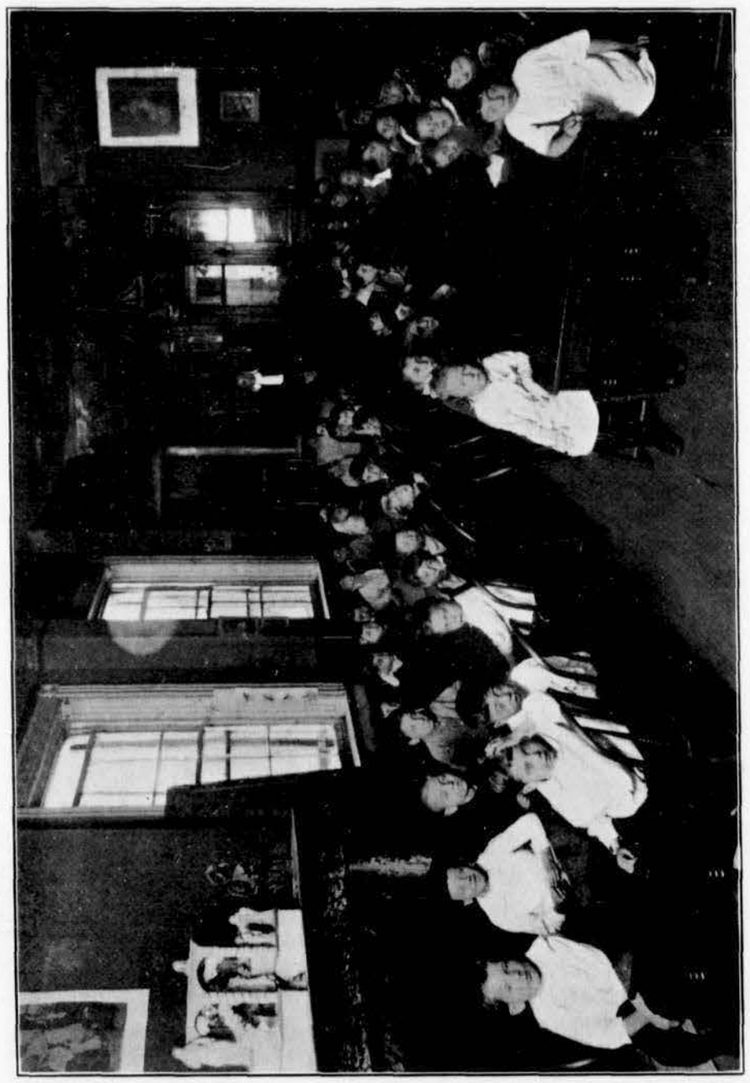
Payments made on above Loan as follows:

No. 1 March 8, 1889	$2,000.00	
No. 2 Jan. 3, 1899	728.45	
No. 3 Jan. 20, 1900	471.55	
No. 4 Jan. 21, 1901	450.00	
No. 5 Dec. 31, 1901	450.00	
No. 6 Dec. 30, 1902	500.00	
No. 7 Feb. 6, 1904	1,000.00	
No. 8 March 3, 1905	500.00	
No. 9 July 3, 1907	1,500.00	
	$7,600.00	$7,600.00
Loan Balance of July 3, 1907,		$1,900.00

(No. 2.)

COMMONWEALTH BANK.

On September 6th, 1905, a new Mortgage Loan of $2,500 was created.



ST. LEO'S SCHOOL—BABIES OF THE KINDERGARTEN 1921.

(No. 3.)

Mortgage to Border States Savings Bank which was dated March 30, 1889.

AMOUNT		$10,000.00
Which was latter assigned by the Border States Bank to the Hopkins Place Savings Bank in June 15, 1915.		
Payments made on same as follows:—		
June 17, 1902		$ 2,000.00
Balance due of June 17, 1902		$ 8,000.00
May 15, 1915	$ 500.00	
May 29, 1918	500.00	
Oct. 21, 1918	500.00	
Sept. 3, 1919	1,000.00	
Jan. 9, 1920	1,000.00	
May 19, 1920	950.00	
June 22, 1920	1,100.00	
July 15, 1920	700.00	
Aug. 2, 1920	500.00	
Aug. 4, 1920	895.00	
Sept. 28, 1920	355.00	
	$8,000.00	

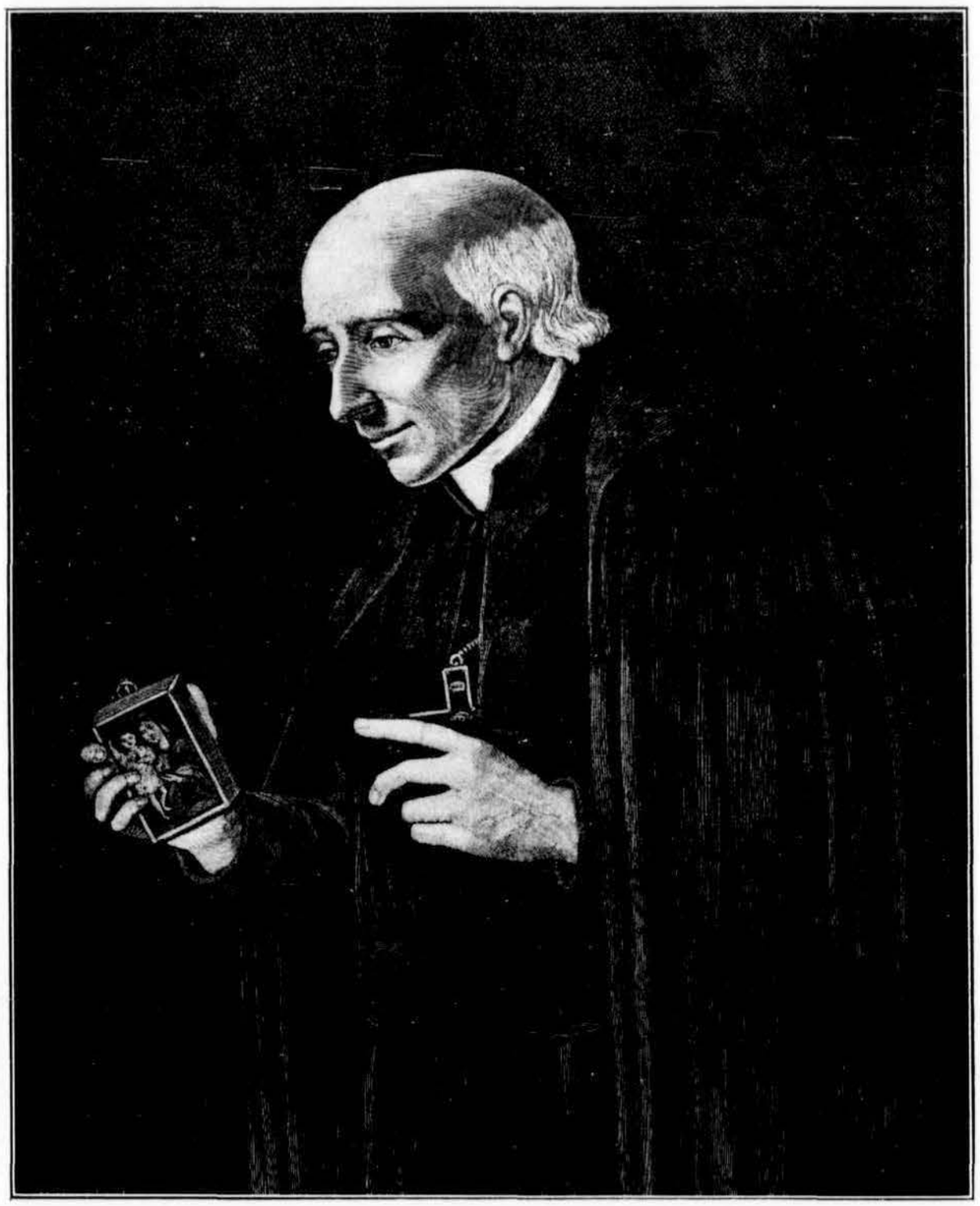
(No. 4.)

Final financial statement from all sources since 1909:

Amount of Debts Due September 7, 1909 to:—	
Metropolitan Savings Bank Mortgage	$ 1,900.00
Ground Rent	7,500.00
Commonwealth Bank	2,500.00
Border State and Hopkins Place Savings Bank	8,000.00
Fannie Kahn Ground Rent on 227 S. Exeter St.	1,000.00
Total Debt Sept. 7, 1909 on Church Property	$20,900.00

(No. 5.)

Total Debt September 7, 1909, on Church Property	$20,900.00
Amount Paid on Above Debt from September 7, 1909 to December 15, 1921	$20,900.00
Which Now Leaves us FREE of all debt.	

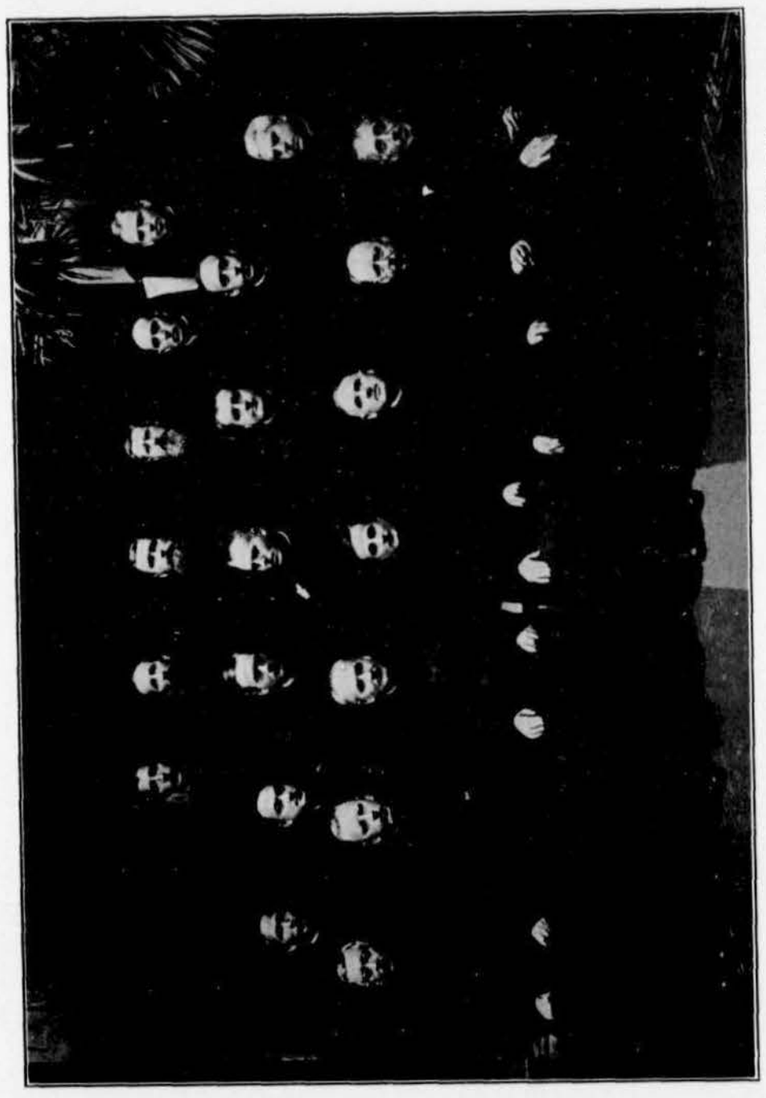


THE VENERABLE VINCENT PALLOTTI
FOUNDER
OF THE PIOUS SOCIETY OF MISSIONS.

SKETCH OF
THE VENERABLE VINCENT MARIA PALLOTTI.

HE was born in Rome on the 21st of April, 1795, and ordained priest in the year 1818, on the 16th of May. On the following day, which was Trinity Sunday, he offered up his first Mass to Almighty God in the Church of the Gesù in Frascati. On the 25th of July of the same year, 1818, he was made a Doctor of Divinity, and was admitted as a member of the Theological Academy in the Roman University. He remained in this office for 10 years. In the year 1829 Vincent resigned this office in order to give himself up completely to the work of the sacred ministry. In a short time he became well-known in Rome, where he was called an apostle and a second Philip Neri. In the year 1835, he founded a new Society, which he called "The Catholic Apostolate," now called "The Pious Society of Missions,"—that is to say, a society devoted to mission work. His idea in founding this Society was to revive the true faith, and to rekindle charity in Catholic countries; to propagate the same amongst non-Catholics and infidels in heathen lands. This mission idea was carried principally from Rome to England, Germany, the United States, Brazil, Argentina and Australia, Africa, etc. The devoted sons of Pallotti are working in these countries to preserve the faith among Catholics, and propagate it among non-Catholics and infidels. Although Vincent Pallotti was not able to labor personally in these countries, he sent some of his most devoted priests into the vineyard of the Lord. In the year 1837, when Rome was visited by cholera, which brought hundreds of people daily to the grave, Vincent, far from being afraid to expose his life to danger, placed himself at the head of numerous zealous ecclesiastics, and with them devoted himself to the beautiful work of assisting the victims.

His humility was great. Pope Gregory XVI and Pius IX loved to see and honor him. Cardinals, Bishops and the Roman aristocracy also paid him many visits and knelt at his feet. The only advantage he took of their friendship was to advocate the claims of the poor. His charity was sincere. Often he would return home bare-footed and with half of his clothing gone, having given all he could in charity; more than once he even gave



REV. FATHERS OF PIOUS SOCIETY OF MISSIONS AT GENERAL CHAPTER IN ROME 1919

away his bed to the poor. He lived indeed a truly apostolic life, this venerable servant of God! His name was in his own time on the lips of every one in Rome.

Vincent Pallotti closed his eyes to this world on January 22, 1850. As soon as the news became known, this cry was heard all over the Eternal City:—"A saint has died—the father of the poor is dead!" It was impossible to number the concourse of people of every class who came to venerate his remains, kissing his hands and feet, or touching his venerable body with handkerchiefs and beads The fame of his sanctity did not cease after his death, but increased and still remains in Rome, Italy and other countries. Faith in his intercession has never diminished, and is rewarded by the favors granted through him by the good Lord. He was declared Venerable in the year 1887, and at present the cause of his beatification is so far advanced that it is hoped he will very soon have the honor of the altar.

VINCENT PALLOTTI'S SONS IN BALTIMORE, MD.
ST. LEO'S CHURCH.

THE sons of Vincent Pallotti, invited by His Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, a great friend and protector of the Pallottini Order, came to Baltimore, Maryland, in September, 1909. The first representative of the Order was the present pastor of St. Leo's, Rev. Joseph M. Riedel, P. S. M.

Father Riedel was many years in Italy, where he pursued his

VERY REV. HYACINTE CARDI
RECTOR GENERAL
PIOUS SOCIETY OF MISSIONS

studies with Italian and other students from all parts of the world. After his ordination to the priesthood, in 1904, he was sent to Hammonton, N. J., to St. Joseph's Church, in the diocese of Trenton, (under the late Bishop McFaul.) There he labored for

five years, assisting Rev. Jos. Transerici, pastor of St. Joseph's in a large mission field, covering some 18 square miles. He likewise attended the surrounding missions of Waterford, Cedar Brook, Winslow and Williamstown. All these missions are composed of different nationalities: Irish, Germans, Italians, Poles and also a few French families. Some of these missions were yet in a very primitive condition, without church or chapel, so that Mass had to be celebrated in private houses. He had the great gratification of seeing a little church built at Cedar Brook and at Williamstown, where he celebrated the first Mass, bringing a small choir from Hammonton, Rev. Joseph Transerici, the good pastor, playing the harmonium.

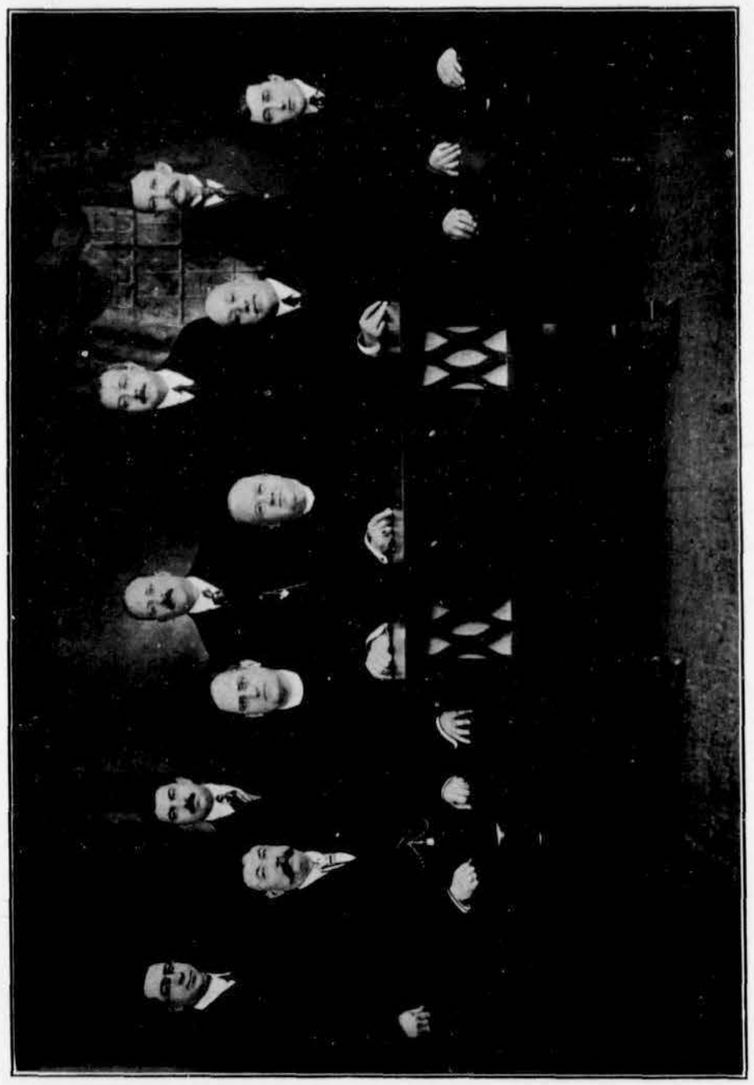
Having mission experience and knowing well the character and language of the people amongst whom he was sent to work by the Very Rev. General of his Order in Rome, he was excellently fitted for his important task and for the new post now assigned him in Baltimore, 1909.

It was soon apparent that he was not only perfectly acquainted with the Italian language, but also that he was an eloquent preacher, fascinating all who heard him. Even at his long Good Friday sermons, lasting over an hour, his people have been known to remain attentive and absorbed, hanging, as it were upon his lips.

Misstatements, such as at times have been set in circulation: neglect of his flock, the deterioration of his church and parish, etc., have all been disproved by *facts* which bespeak his constant love and untiring zeal for those committed to his charge. If today, amongst other things, the Italian colony of Baltimore is proud of its Orphan Asylum, it must be remembered that its foundation is first of all due to the compassion and interest of Father Riedel in these poor children. He is a great lover of children. He may any day be seen in the streets of his parish surrounded by a number of children, stooping to the little ones, laughing and talking with them—they are his delight and consolation. The children, in return, love him, and call to him wherever they see him: "Father! Father Riedel!"

When attacked by calumny, he would calmly say: "The servant cannot expect to be treated better than his Master."

His motto is: "All for the greater glory of God, the salvation



RIGHT REV. O. B. CORRIGAN AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF ST. LEO'S ITALIAN ORPHAN ASYLUM, 112 N. FRONT ST.

of immortal souls and my own." The heart of every priest, and still more of a missionary, must be embued with that Christlike spirit, embracing the whole world in brotherly love, without distinction of race, nation or color. For the immortal soul has been redeemed not with gold and silver, but with the most precious Blood of the God-Man, true God and true Man, Our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

He always loved and esteemed the Italian race, so great in its ancestry, in the history of the world, and Rome in particular, as the Eternal City, the seat of the visible Head of the Catholic Church.

In 1910, Father Riedel opened the former St. Vincent's Male Orphan Asylum as a school for 335 children of St. Leo's parish, expecting to add to their number the children in the neighborhood of Belair Market; but after a trial of four years the number of children in that section, on the one hand, was found to be too small to justify a permanent occupation of the place, whilst, on the other, the children of St. Leo's were inconvenienced by the distance of the school from their homes. So it became an imperative necessity to remodel the old buildings of St. Leo's School, on Stiles street, to accommodate the steadily increasing and large classes of Italian children south of Baltimore street.

Just at this time, many cases of distress were discovered among Italian children, and the difficulty of placing them in already overcrowded charitable institutions proved very great. Providence came to the help of Father Riedel in his efforts to relieve these poor and needy little ones. The thought occurred to him: "How would it do for us to start an institution of our own?" One morning he went to see Cardinal Gibbons, who received him, as always, most cordially.

"Well, Father Riedel, what can I do for you?" was the greeting of His Eminence. Father Riedel disclosed his plan. to which the Cardinal gave his hearty approval and a number of practical hints. Father Riedel immediately made a round of visits to prominent Italians of the city. The Consul, Signor G. Schiaffino, expressed himself in full sympathy with the project, saying that seven years before, he himself had proposed a similar scheme to several of the Italian societies of Baltimore, but without success. Forty-five cards of invitation were sent out to leading

THE ORPHAN'S AT ST. LEO'S ITALIAN ORPHAN ASYLUM. 112 N. FRONT ST.

Italians for a meeting at St. Leo's rectory, 227 S. Exeter street. Many of those invited responded, and all approved of the plan and promised aid. At a second meeting, Father Riedel explained the scope of the undertaking and outlined the general rules of management as they seemed best to him, emphasizing the fact that the Asylum was to be an entirely Catholic and diocesan one, under the protection and supervision of Cardinal Gibbons and his successors, and was to be placed in charge of Sisters. Father Riedel believed that a purely national Asylum, managed by lay officials, would be unsuccessful. (This was clearly shown the same year, in the case of a national Catholic institution in East Baltimore, conducted by a band of young ladies.)

Cardinal Gibbons left entirely to Father Riedel which religious community of Sisters should be asked to take charge of the proposed Asylum; they might be either Italian or American Sisters, as he thought best, and permission was given to him to call upon any Sisters, whether in or out of the diocese, whom he should judge best fitted for the undertaking. After prayer and consultation with other priests, he decided to call the Sisters of his own Pallottini Order, from their mother-house in Hoboken, New Jersey.

Cardinal Gibbons and Bishop O. B. Corrigan made it clearly understood that this diocesan institution is to be, and to remain connected with St. Leo's, and that the acting Pastor of St. Leo's Church is to represent them, to preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors and, furthermore, is also to hold the office of Treasurer.

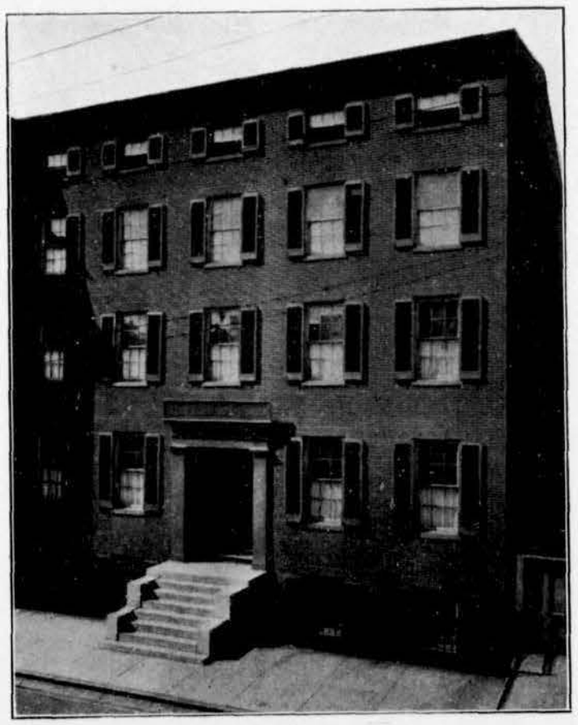
In October, 1913, the first three Pallottini Sisters arrived in Baltimore, temporary provision being made for their wants by the Pastor and the good Notre Dame Sisters of St. Leo's. The first members of the Board of Directors were:

Rev. Joseph M. Riedel, P. S. M.
Cav. Giovanni Schiaffino, Italian Consul,
Angelo Cilento, Secretary,
Santo Lanasa,
Anth. Di Marco, Attorney-at-Law,
Dr. Eugene Pessagno.

The following year the Committee was enlarged by the addition of these gentlemen:

Benjamin De Rosa,
Joseph Quarino,
Joseph Schiaffino.

At the first meeting in the new Asylum, candles were the only lights; and seated at a bare table with the Committee and the



ST. LEO'S ITALIAN ORPHAN ASYLUM
112 N. FRONT ST.

newly-arrived Sisters the poverty of the venture was so apparent that Mother Catherine asked for a personal agreement and assumption of responsibility on the part of Father Riedel that at least $300 might be assured for the support of the Sisters in case of failure. So great was his trust in Providence that Father Riedel cheerfully signed this contract. He believed that God would send him ways and means for all that was needed, and so it proved. Although the subscriptions of the entire Committee did not cover the initial expenses, there was no longer a thought of abandoning the enterprise at the end of the very first year. All the current expenses had been met by the generous aid of numerous American as well as Italian friends.

On January 15, 1915, the Asylum was incorporated under the legal title: "St. Leo's Italian Orphan Asylum of Baltimore." Right Rev. Bishop Owen B. Corrigan graced the occasion with his presence, to the joy of the Board, the good Sisters and all the inmates. On April 9, 1916, Cardinal Gibbons, after receiving the annual report from the Treasurer, wrote:

Rev. Jos. M. Riedel, P. S. M., and Gentlemen of the Board of Directors of St. Leo's Italian Orphan Asylum, Baltimore, Md.

My Dear Father Riedel:

I am greatly pleased to learn of the progress made by St. Leo's Orphan Asylum, and of the great interest shown in the Institution, which is of such great benefit to the Italian colony of the city.

I sincerely trust that this interest will continue, and that it will receive the hearty support of all.

Praying God to bless you and your noble work, I am

Faithfully in Xto.,

J. Card. Gibbons.
Archbishop of Baltimore.

LETTER FROM BISHOP CORRIGAN.

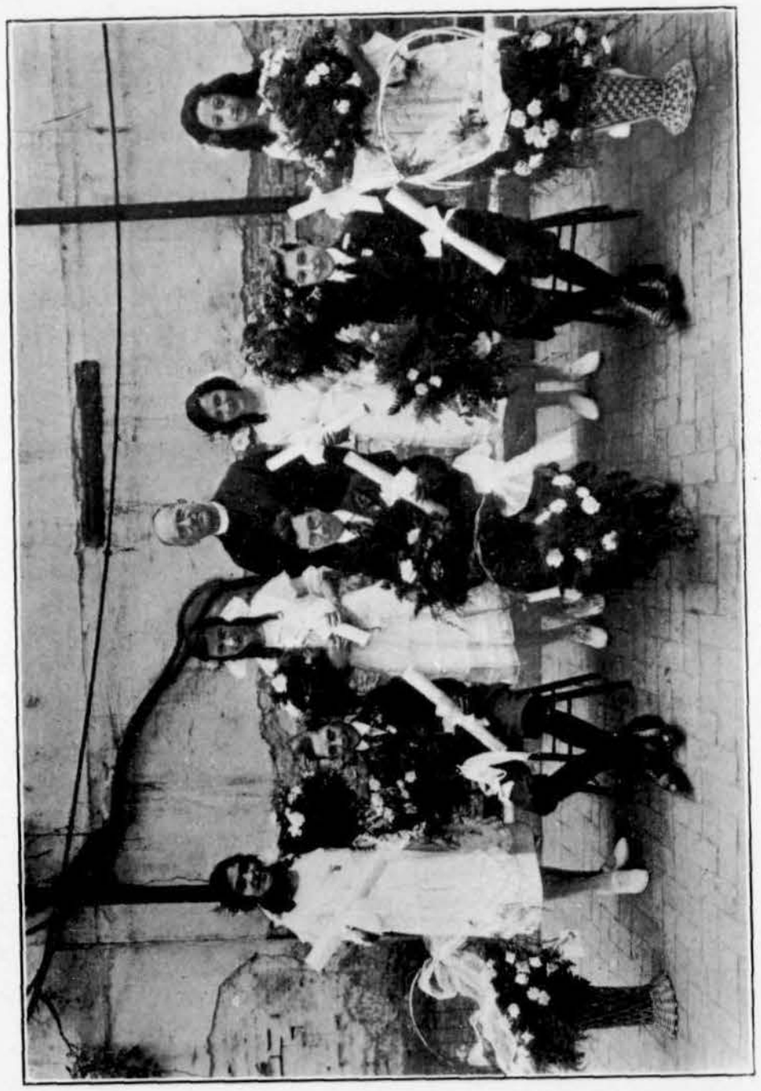
Dear Father Riedel,

Baltimore, Md., May 1, 1916.

St. Leo's Orphan Asylum is one of the most recent amongst the active charities of this city, and is commended to the people of Baltimore as a means of doing a great and good work for the Italian orphan children of the city. It is housed in the building occupied for many years by St. Vincent's Asylum, and is in charge of the Pallottini Sisters, who are Italians, devoted to the welfare of the children of their own race. We hope that not only the Italians will take an interest in this good work, but that our American Catholics will co-operate to make it the grand success we aspire to accomplish by its means.

O. B. Corrigan
Bishop of Macra, V. O. G.

There are eight Sisters at present at the Asylum. Sister Mary Faustina is the Mother Superioress. The number of children varies from fifty to seventy-five. There are also a number in the Day Nursery.



ST. LEO'S GRADUATES OF 1921

OUR SCHOOL.

THE record of our school, covering or period of 39 years, inspires the deepest gratitude to God for the signal blessing which He has favored its progress.

When St. Leo's parish was established, the zealous pastor, Father Andreis, now resting in God, centered his hopes for its success in a parochial school. This was opened in September, 1882, and taught by three lay teachers. One year later, the School Sisters of Notre Dame assumed charge,, with Sister Mary Margaret as Superioress. In 1909, when the Pallottini Fathers took charge of the parish, the school had 250 pupils on the roll; since then the number has annually increased. Sister Mary Pauline was appointed directress of the school in 1908, and was succeeded in office by Sister Mary Davidica, in 1918. During all these years the school prospered; untold good has been accomplished within its walls; hundreds of boys and girls received a solid, thoroughly Christian education. Notwithstanding the numerous difficulties with which the parish has been contending, the school has always maintained a high standard. It became necessary to remodel the buildings for the accommodation of the large classes. In the interim, the children were taught at St. Vincent's, 112 North Front Street, until, after four years' absence,they returned to St. Leo's. At the blessing of the new school, our late lamented Cardinal addressed the congregation in St. Leo's Hall, and expressed his belief in the future success of the parish and school—a prophecy which time has verified. At present there are 252 boys and 229 girls on the roll, from the little tots of the kindergarten to the elders of fourteen and fifteen years. The children are a pride to the parish, and a credit to their devoted teachers.

During the past ten years, 1358 children were confirmed; 843 children received their First Holy Communion; many thousand confessions have been heard, and five missions given.

The parishioners have become fully convinced of their reverend Pastor's untiring zeal, his persevering endeavors for the salvation of their souls. They know that, after God, this country holds the dearest affection and unselfish devotedness of his noble priest-heart. The memorial tablet in honor of St. Leo's boys of the Army and Navy during the late war, erected on Thanksgiving Day, 1920, as well as the cadets trained under his splendid supervision, are substantial proofs of his patriotism.

ST. LEO'S YOUNG LADIES' SEWING CIRCLE

ST. LEO'S SCHOOL CHILDREN.

SOCIAL WORK AT ST. LEO'S

ST. LEO'S GIRLS' CLUB.

I.

IN September, 1921, Father Riedel called at the National Catholic Community House on Broadway to ask if the secretaries in charge of the house could give some of their time to the girls of his parish. Miss Ring, director of the house and her assistants, Misses Koppa and Cook, suggested organizing a girls' club made up of young ladies of St. Leo's parish, and afternoon sewing classes for the girls of St. Leo's School.

Father Riedel called a meeting of the young ladies early in October, and St. Leo's Girls' Club was then organized, its aims being spiritual, educational and recreational.

Miss Koppa offered to coach a basket-ball team on Monday night of each week. This offer was heartily accepted, and the St. Leo's Girls' Basket Ball Team is making splendid progress.

On Wednesday night of each week, the St. Leo's Girls' Club gathers to read and sew and to hold their business meetings under the direction of Miss Cook. The bloomers to be worn while playing basket ball were the first things made in the sewing class.

The Halow-een party given by these young ladies was a decided success. It was given in St. Leo's Gymnasium, which was prettily decorated for the occasion. The proceeds of the entertainment were sufficient to pay for the necessary basket ball equipment and for a new sewing machine for the club room.

II.

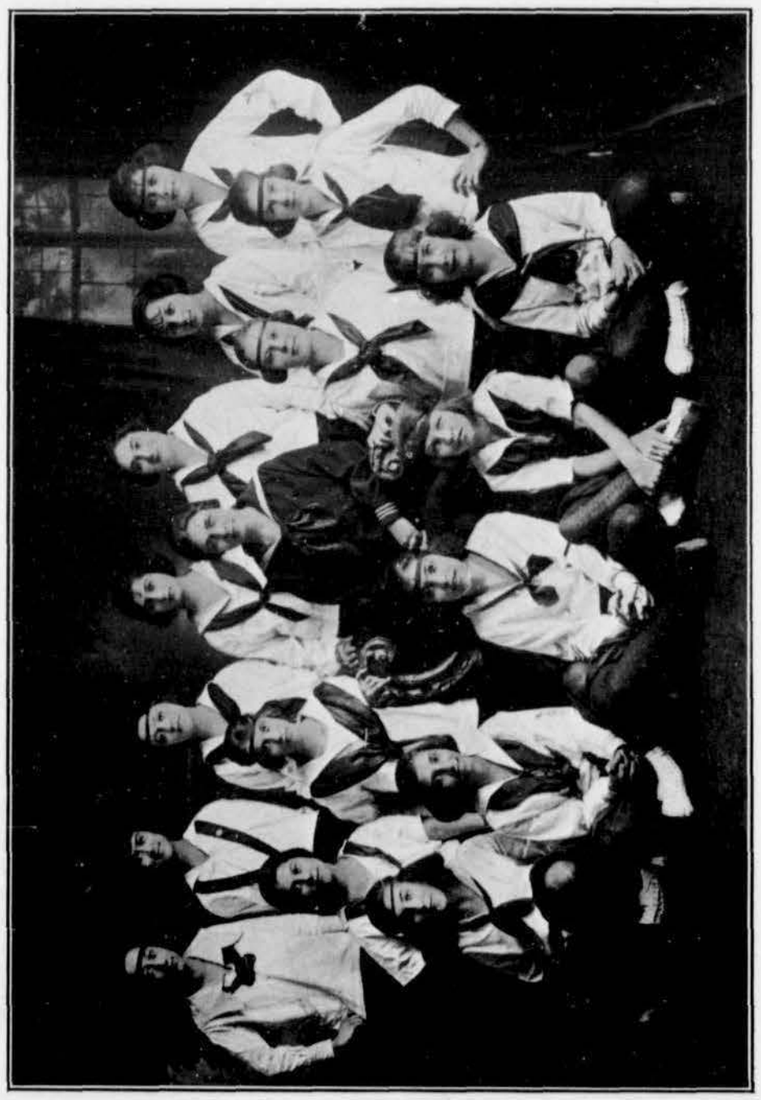
SEWING CLASSES OF ST. LEO'S SCHOOL.

The Senior Sewing Class meets on Monday afternoons in the kindergarten room. Besides learning to sew by hand, the girls of this class have almost all learned to use the machine. They are being taught how to cut by simple patterns and how to make plain dresses.

The parents of these girls are often pleasantly surprised at the progress they are making in their work.

ST. LEO'S SCHOOL JUNIOR SEWING CLASS

ST. LEO'S SCHOOL SENIOR SEWING CLASS



ST. LEO'S YOUNG LADIES' BASKET BALL TEAM

III.

The Junior Sewing Class is made up of girls from the second and third grades. They meet every Wednesday afternoon as soon as school is dismissed. After spending ten or fifteen minutes singing and playing games, these little girls settle down to work and sew for an hour and a half. Miss Cook does the cutting, and the children do the basting and hand sewing. Each little girl made her own sewing bag, and later started on bloomers, aprons or handkerchiefs.

The warmest thanks and appreciation of St. Leo's parish, pastor and congregation, are here offered Misses Cook, Koppa and Ring for their invaluable assistance and interest, and for the earnestness and devotedness of their work.

ST. LEO'S BASEBALL TEAM.

From the Catholic Review of May, 1921, we read as follows:

When St. Leo's entered the league, the Italians said that they did not expect to clean up things the first season, but they said that the future would prove them worthy foes. Well, the Exeter Street clan has been getting better all the time. It has not won a game but it worried St. Brigid's before the Cantonians nabbed a 19 to 17 ten-inning triumph. St. Leo's led to the ninth when St. Brigid's tallied twice, dead-locking the affair.

Put two heroes in the Hall of Fame: Young Lombardi, first baseman for St. Leo's and Hisle of Holy Name, Washington.

The young descendant of sunny Italy in six trips to the platter in the meeting with St. Elizabeth's hit safely six times. All of his hits were singles. He stole three bases in addition.

There is no less ample provision made for the boys and young men of the parish. Besides the cadets composed of school boys, there is a basket ball team for boys who have just left school, and another for young men ranging from 17 years upwards. These teams play twice a week. There is a large recreation room at the boys' disposal, also a pool table and provision made for other lawful games.

Neither are the elder people forgotten. The Christian Mothers' Sodality of Catholic Women meet once a month and receive the

ST. LEO'S CATHOLIC LEAGUE BASE BALL TEAM

Sacraments on all the principal Feasts of Our Lady, Saint Rita and Saint Anna. St. Leo's Confraternity of Men of which Mr. Pasquale Liberto is the president, receive Holy Communion in a body at the Quarter Tenses. The Children of Mary for girls and young ladies, and Saint Aloysius Sodality for boys and young men receive the Sacraments monthly on their specified Sundays. The Reverend Pastor, Father Riedel, is anxious to have the whole parish enrolled in the League of Sacred Heart. The latest movement is the enrolling of all the Catholic men of the parish in the National Welfare Council. At present 50 men have been enrolled, and we trust that the new year will find this number greatly increased.

ST. LEO'S CADETS.

DONATIONS MADE DURING FATHER RIEDEL'S PASTORATE.

Statue of St. Leo the Great (patron of our church) by Mrs. Anna Lanasa, Sr.

Beautiful Pieta (Sorrowful Mother) by the members of the Christian Mothers' Sodality.

St. Teresa, by Mrs. Teresa Santoni.

St. Gerard, by his devoted clients. Collected by Mrs. Penti.

St. Rita and St. Anna, by Mrs. V. Cardegna.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, in the Purgatorial Group, donated to Fr. Riedel for St. Leo's Church by Carmen Di Jesu. This was blessed by the late Cardinal Gibbons at his last visit to St. Leo's on July 16, 1920.

The Statue of the Resurrection of Our Lord was donated by Mrs. M. Cascio.

In the year 1917, through the kindness of Mrs. Isabella Martocci, the first electric lamp was installed.

Our good parishoners helped to install the electric lights in church and rectory. The St. Anthony and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel societies paid for the electric light outside the church on the Cross and Rose window.

CONCLUSION.

Our motive in compiling this booklet is to set before our parishioners, benefactors and friends an outline of the great work just accomplished—the clearing of St. Leo's debt amounting to $20,900; also to present the plan of future work to be done. St. Leo's Church is to be frescoed and painted; new windows are to be put in. The Great St. Leo's Gymnasium must be repaired and improved. The expenses will amount to several thousand dollars. The night, December the twentieth, five Basket Ball Teams played in this Gymnasium, the air vibrating with cheers, and hooting at the lads' games. St. Andrew's The boys of the Commnity House on Broadway, The Americo Team, and St. Leo's Juniors and Seniors all had their games at ten o'clock. The thought that here under surveillance the boys spend their time in athletic sports far removed from dangers, is an inspiration to the Priest's heart. He willingly and gladly gives his attention and support to these organizations.

This booklet is not intended to mention each individual benefactor, each contributor to the drive, as the list of over one thousand offerings from five cents to two hundred dollars, would be too long. We concluded, therefore, to mention only the names of those gentlemen and ladies who worked untiringly in soliciting donations and sacrificing their time at the tables of carnivals, picnics, oyster suppers and entertainments. To these especially, we extend our profound, heartfelt assurance of gratitude. The twenty-two authorized collectors for the drive deserve particular mention; we fully realize that their task in visiting the homes of the rich and the poor was at times discouraging. Nevertheless, they continued cheerfully in their splendid work. While referring to these earnest workers, we appreciate no less the poor widow's mite which as Holy Writ teaches, was most acceptable to God.

During the year 1922, one hundred Masses will be offered in thanksgiving according to the intentions, of the benefactors of St. Leo's

"May God bless you all! May He reward you a hundredfold here below, and grant you everlasting bliss in Heaven," is my sincere wish.

Reverend Joseph M. Riedel, P. S. M.

A SUE GRAZIA
MICHAEL J. CURLEY,
Arcivescovo di Baltimore, Maryland.

Era nostra intenzione di dedicare questa breve rivista che riassume l'opera modesta e febbrile di piu' di un dodicennio di nostro arduo lavoro, a sua Eminenza — l'amatissimo e compianto Cardinale Gibbson che per 12 anni ci ha sempre assistito e guidato coll'esempio, coi consigli, colle sue felici ispirazioni, colle benedizioni del Signore, se la falce inesorabile della morte non avesse recisa la nobile esistenza del principe della nostra Chiesa.

Quantunque la sua santa memoria e la nostra profonda gratitudine siano scolpiti nei nostri cuori ci permettiamo offrire la presente dedica al suo illustre successore, a Sua Grazia l'Arcivescovo Michele Curley confidenti che egli vorra' accogliere benevolmente la nostra opera ed accordarci la sua alta protezione affinche' questa modesta parrocchia italiana possa essere un modello degno del suo Grande Patrono e di questa Gloriosa Arcidiocesi.

I PADRI PALLOTTINI

CENNI BIOGRAFICI DEL VENERABILE
VINCENZO MARIA PALLOTTI

Nacque in Roma il primo Aprile 1795 ed ordinato sacerdote nell'anno 1818 nel giorno 16 di Maggio.

Il giorno successivo era la Domenica della SS.ma Trinita' ed egli offrì la sua prima messa a Dio Onnipotente nella chiesa di Gesù a Frascati.

Il 25 Luglio dello stesso anno fu proclamato dottore in divinità ed ammesso come membro dell'Accademia Teologica nell'Università di Roma.

Per 10 anni consecutivi occupò tale carica con zelo, con dignità ed amore.

Ma nell'anno 1829 volle ed ottenne le dimissioni per dedicarsi completamente al lavoro del Sacro Ministero. In breve tempo

mercè la sua umiltà, l'indefessa attività' la sublime carità fu conosciuto ed ammirato in tutta Roma ove la sua fama divenne così proverbiale da acquistarsi rinomanza di un vero Apostolo tanto da essere paragonato ad un secondo Filippo Neri.

Nell'anno 1835 fondo' la nuova Società *Apostolato Cattolico* che ora si appella *La Pia Societa' delle Missioni.*

Il suo pensiero predominante era quello di ravvivare la fede riaccendere la carità, sublimare le virtù innalzare l'umana mente verso le vette eccelse del pensier di Dio. Questa idea ristretta nel suo cervello durante la sua permanenza in Roma, in breve vorgere di tempo, si spaziò in un campo così vasto da abbracciare l'Inghilterra la Germania, gli Stati Uniti, il Brasile, l'Argentina, l'Australia, l'Africa ecc.

Ora i seguaci devoti di Pallotti si contano a centinaia di migliaia su tutta l'orbe terracquea, e fanno un lavoro da titani per la preservazione della fede Cattolica.

L'Opera sua assunse così vaste proporzioni da rendere impossibile dovunque la sua assistenza cosicchè si valse del concorso di buoni e devoti sacerdoti che con sapiente maestria seppe distribuire nella vigna del Signore tanto che la sua opera veniva colmata quotidianamente da infinite benedizioni.

Nel 1837. quando Roma fu visitata dal colera che menò strage uccidendo migliaia di persone, Vincenzo non indietreggiò dinanzi al pericolo, anzi si mise a capo di un numeroso stuolo di sacerdoti portando la salvezza dove era la desolazione e la morte.

La sua umiltà fu semplicemente fenomenale. Papa Gregorio XVI e Pio IX lo amavano e lo onoravano.

Cardinali, vescovi, prelati, aristocrazia e popolo di Roma facevano a gara per genuflettersi ai suoi piedi. Ma da tutte le sue amicizie l'unico vantaggio che ne ritraeva era quello di servire e e beneficare i poveri ed essere il loro buon avvocato difensore.

La sua carità era in sommo grado sincera e improntata al più schietto sacrificio e alla piu' sublime abnegazione. Spesso rincasava scalzo, mezzo nudo, per aver tutto dato ai poveri.

Egli fu un fervente apostolo ed un vero servo di Dio. Ed il suo nome era sulle labbra di tutti i romani.

Vincenzo Pallotti chiuse gli occhi al mondo il 22 Gennaio 1850.

Appena si sparse la notizia della sua morte un sol grido echeggiò per la Città Eterna ed il popolo all'unisono gridava: *E' morto il Santo. E' morto il padre dei poverelli.*

Impossibile enumerare la folla che faceva ressa intorno al morto e domandava di poterlo vedere, toccare e baciare. Fu un accorrere continuo di popolo che si genufletteva riverente cercando di baciargli le mani, sfiorare colle labbra la punta delle dita, toccare il suo venerabile corpo almeno con un fazzoletto o corona.

La fama della Sua Santità non cessò colla sua morte ma si ingigantì sempre piu' e tanto che la sua memoria è viva più che mai tanto in Roma che altrove.

Il suo nome è oggi sempre invocato, la fede nella sua intercessione aumenta ogni dì e presso il trono della Grande Maestà del Signore Vincenzo Pallotti, che fu dichiarato Venerabile nell'anno 1887, fra breve assurgerà alla sublimità della sua Beatificazione.

I FIGLI DELL'ORDINE DI VINCENZO PALLOTTI in Baltimore Md. CHIESA DI S. LEONE

I figli dell'Ordine di Vincenzo Pallotti invitati da Sua Eminenza il Cardinale Gibbson — il grande e sincero amico e protettore dell'Ordine dei Pallottini — fecero la prima comparsa in questacittà il 7 Settembre 1909.

Il primo rappresentante dell'Ordine fu l'attuale pastore della Chiesa di San Leone, Rev. Joseph M. Riedel P. S. M.

Il Molto Reverendo padre Riedel studiò per molti anni in Italia fra studenti italiani e di molte altre nazionalità, facendosi sempre apprezzare per le sue doti di mente, di cuore e di fede.

Ordinato Sacerdote nel 1904 fu destinato ad Hammonton, N. J. nella chiesa di S. Giuseppe, diocesi di Trenton, sotto la giurisdizione del valente e compianto vescovo Mc Faul. Ivi lavorò con ardore per 5 anni quale assistente del Rev. Joseph Transerici pastore della chiesa di S. Giuseppe in quella grande missione che covre un'estensione di 18 miglia quadrate, prestando l'opera sua intelligente anche nelle missioni limitrofe di Waterford, Cedar Brook, Winslow e Williamstown.

In tutte queste missioni predominava l'elemento stranieroi di ogni nazionalità, ma alcune di esse si trovavano in uno stato de primitiva condiz one senza chiesa o cappella talchè la messa doveva celebrarsi in case private. Però gli sforzi inauditi e la instancabile attività del Rev. Riedel riuscirono a far erigere una piccola chiesa a Cider Brook e un'altra a Williamstowh dove con una pompa solenne e con le elette benedizioni del Signore egli celebrò la prima messa accompagnato da un coro di fedeli de Hammonton. In quella memoranda occasione il Reverendo e pio pastore Joseph Tanserici suonò l'organo e le noti solenne e divine s'innalzarono nel tempietto cantando le lodi del Signore. In tali lavori missionari il Rev. Riedel acquisto una grande esperienzai imparando diversi linguaggi necessari per essere a contatto co, fedeli d'ogni paese cosicchè il Molto Reverendo Generale dell'Ordine Pallottini in Roma ebbe molto a compiacersene per aver raggiunto perfettamente lo scopo che si prefiggeva ne' dare il delicato e difficile incarico al suo fedele subalterno.

Nei compiti più difficili e pazienti il Rev. Riedel dimostrò una eccezionale energia, una grande abilità, una vasta capacità tanto che in omaggio ai suoi speciali meriti nel 1909 venne destinato in qualità di Pastore in questo importante centro di Baltimore.

Quivi la perfetta conoscenza di parecchie lingue, fra cui la italiana che egli parla fluentemente, la sua affascinante eloquenza, rivelarono ben presto la sua dottrina e le sue alte doti che non mancarono di attirare la simpatia dei fedeli spesso in estatica contemplazione quando i suoi smaglianti e dotti sermoni toccavano i punti culminanti della fede e parlavano, specialmente nel sermone del Venerdì Santo, della morte gloriosa del nostro Signore Gesù Cristo.

Ma come Gesù ebbe il suo Giuda così anch'egli vero seguace cristiano ebbe i suoi denigratori.

Fu accusato di negligenza, di trascuratezza, di aver deteriorata la chiesa, di partigianeria, di favoritismo ma egli sempre calmo e sorridente dava a tutti piena facoltà di investigazione ripetendo che il servente non può essere trattato meglio che il Maestro.

Il suo motto infallibile è: Tutto per la grande gloria di Dio e pee la salvezza di tutte le anime che sono tutte unite nel grandi amore divino senza distinzione di razza e di colore perchè le anime

furono redenti non con l'oro e l'argento ma col sangne preziosissimo dell'Uomo Buono del vero Dio e vero Uomo nostro Signore e Redentore Gesù Cristo.

Oggi si sono ricreduti anche i suoi calunniatori perchè come il Sole fa dileguare la nebbia, come la Verità splenderà sempre sfolgorante di luce perchè emanazione di Dio, così la sua condotta irreprensibile, le sue virtù preclari, la sua nitida fede obbligano anche i mendaci ad inchinarsi.

Bisogna aggiungere che se questa città oggi ha il vanto di avere un Asilo infantile lo si deve in gran parte alla solerzia instancabile di questo modesto sacerdote che se ama tutti i fratelli dell'universo predilige i bambini, specialmente poveri e reietti verso i quali ha una tenerezza commovente, una delicatezza estrema, una attenzione scrupolosa ed ama circondarsi ogni giorno di uno stuolo di bambini che gli fanno un mondo di feste esclamando a a distesa: Nostro buon padre!

Egli ha un affetto speciale per gli Italiani che gli ricordano la sua Roma prediletta, la Sede principale della Chiesa Cattolica, la fiaccola che illumina il mondo e che tutt'ora suscita nel suo animo gentile una folla di ricordi giovanili durante il tempo degli studi in quella terra benedetta.

Nel 1910 il Rev. Padre Riedel aprì il locale a 112 N. Front St. per uso della scuola di S. Leone con circa 335 bambini sperando di aumentarne il numero con altri appartenenti alla Sezione di Belair Market.

Quattro anni di esperienza dimostrarono, però, che il numero dei bambini di quest'ultima sezione era troppo esiguo perciò non giustificava la permanente occupazione del locale. D'altro canto vi era l'inconveniente che i bambini di S. Leone abitavano molto lungi dalla scuola e ciò rese necessario rimodellare il vecchio fabbricato della scuola di S. Leone in Stiles Street per accomodare l'accresciuto numero di bambini italiani della parte meridionale di Baltimore.

In quel tempo parecchie famiglie italiane si trovavano in condizioni di assoluta povertà ed impossibilità a provvedere un ricovero per i loro bambini nelle diverse istituzioni di carità ma la provvidenza ispirò il nostro degno sacerdote che subito pensò a soccorrere i bambini poveri ed aprire una istituzione di carità eminentemente italiana.